## Message Text

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**ORIGIN NEA-10** 

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 /097 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVANORDER

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

E/PRA - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

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R 190129Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCEUR

**UNCLAS STATE 273625** 

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR NOVEMBER 18, 1975:

A. THE QUESTION YESTERDAY WAS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PRESS REPORTS OF SAUDI MANEUVERS IN SYRIA. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THESE MANEUVERS WHICH ALREADY TOOK PLACE -- THEY ARE

COMPLETED -- WAS SOME SAUDI F-5 AIRCRAFT WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL TRAINING CYCLE OF THE SAUDI BRIGADE WHICH HAS BEEN STATIONED IN SYRIA SINCE 1973, THEY HAD A SHORT TRAINING MANEUVER EARLIER THIS MONTH. SAUDI AIRCRAFT PARTICIPATED IN THIS MANEUVER, STAGING THROUGH JORDAN.

TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE MANEUVER WAS ENTIRELY A SAUDI ONE.

Q.I'M SORRY. WHAT DO YOU MEAN "STAGING THROUGH JORDAN"?

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A. THE PLANES I THINK WERE IN JORDAN. THEY LANDED AND TOOK OFF. I BELIEVE THIS SAUDI BRIGADE IS IN SOUTHERN SYRIA, NEAR THE JORDANIAN BORDER.

THERE WAS A QUESTION: HAD ANY AMERICAN-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT IN THE HANDS OF THE SAUDIS BEEN USED BY THE SYRIANS IN THIS MANEUVER?

THE ANSWER IS NO. IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT WAS A SAUDI MANEUVER, AND, SECONDLY, ALL THE AMERICAN-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT REMAINED IN SAUDI HANDS.

AND, FINALLY, JUST TO REITERATE WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY, IN OUR JUDGMENT THESE MANEUVERS DO NOT CONSTITUTE A

VIOLATION OF THE END-USE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY U.S. LAW UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT.

Q. ARE YOU PREPARED TO SAY WHETHER IT WOULD BE A VIOLATION IF IT WAS A JOINT MANEUVER, EVEN THOUGH SAUDI PILOTS REMAINED IN SAUDI PLANES?

A. I DO NOT THINK THAT WOULD -- THAT IS SPECULATIVE -- BUT I DO NOT THINK NECESSARILY THAT JOINT MANEUVERS BY COUNTRIES WHO RECEIVE OUR EQUIPMENT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION BECAUSE THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT DOES PERMIT COLLECTIVE DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, OR MANEUVERS RELATING TO THEM.

Q. IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN USING THEM IN THIS KIND OF A STAGING AND USING THEM IN A WAR SITUATION SO FAR AS THE END USE RESTRICTIONS ARE CONCERNED?

A. THE BASIC END-USE RESTRICTION IS THAT THEY ARE OBTAINED STRICTLY FOR DEFENSIVE USE.

Q. AND WHAT FACILITIES WERE THEY ACCORDED FOR SERVICING AND OTHERWISE?

A. YOU MEAN AIRCRAFT?

Q. YES. BY WHOM? UNCLASSIFIED

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A. THEY MAY HAVE SERVICED THE AIRCRAFT THEMSELVES. I DO NOT KNOW. BUT I DO KNOW THEY STAGED IN AND OUT OF JORDAN.

I MEAN IS THERE SOMETHING BEHIND YOUR QUESTION THAT I AM --

Q. NO. IT WAS JUST --

Q. CAN I PUT SOMETHING BEHIND HIS QUESTION?

A. SURE.

Q. IT HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR JOINT SYRIAN-JORDANIAN PLANNING, WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE OFFING FOR ABOUT A YEAR NOW. NOW, UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE CAPACITY OF THESE PLANES TO MAKE FLIGHTS TO ASK INTELLIGENT QUESTIONS, BUT I HAVE DOUBTS IN MY OWN MIND THAT THEY REALLY HAD TO STOP IN JORDAN TO MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO SYRIA. ISN'T THIS A TRIPARTITE OPERATION NOW?

A. I DO NOT THINK THAT NECESSARILY FOLLOWS. I THINK THE MANEUVER PROBABLY WENT ON FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND THEY WERE

STAGED IN JORDAN.

Q. THEY OPERATED FROM AN AIRFIELD IN JORDAN OR IN SYRIA?

A. IN JORDAN. THAT IS THE WAY I UNDERSTAND IT.

Q. THE QUESTION WAS I THINK RELATED TO WHETHER YOU HAD ANY INFORMATION ON WHETHER IN FACT THERE'S BEEN A JOINT WYRIAN-JORDANIA MILITARY COMMAND FORMED.

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT. I DO NOT THINK THERE IS ANYTHING FROM THIS THAT WOULD SUGGEST THAT IN ANY WAY.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT SEE ALL THESE MANEUVERS SAUDIS ARE USING JORDANIAN AIRFIELDS IN SYRIA, AND SO UNCLASSIFIED

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FORTH -- AS AN ATTEMPT TO -- AS A KIND OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AT THIS TIME AGAINST ISRAEL? IS THAT THE SUMMARY OF ALL THAT ACTION?

A. IT IS THE FIRST I HAVE HEARD OF THAT BEING DRAWN FROM THIS. AS I WAS TO UNDERSTAND, II WAS PART OF THE BRIGADE'S ANNUAL TRAINING CYCLE. THERE WERE VERY FEW AIRCRAFT INVOLVED.

Q. HOW MANY?

A. I UNDERSTAND IT WAS A SQUADRON -- WHICH COULD BE PROBABLY AROUND 15 OR LESS.

Q. -- ALL U.S. EQUIPMENT REMAINED IN SAUDI HANDS.

A. -- I SAID THE QUESTION LEFT OVER FROM YESTERDAY WAS: HAD SYRIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL USED ANY AMERICAN-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT IN THE HANDS OF THE SAUDI FORCES?

AND THE ANSWER TO THAT IS NO.

Q. DO YOU KNOW FOR A FACT WHETHER THE SAUDI ARABIANS USED PLANES IN THE CYCLE OF TRAINING LAST YEAR? I DON'T KNOW. DO YOU KNOW THAT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q. SO HOW CAN YOU SAY THEN THAT IT'S A REGULAR THING?

A. THE EXERCISE BY THE BRIGADE IS A REGULAR THING. THEY OBVIOUSLY HAVE A ANNUAL TRAINING CYCLE.

Q. COULD WE GO BACK TO THE QUESTION OF A JOINT SYRIAN-JORDANIAN COMMAND? YOU SAID THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY SHOW COOPERATION; BUT IF A PLANE IS TAKING OFF FROM A JORDAN AIRFIELD TO PARTICIPATE IN MANEUVERS IN SYRIA OR INVOLVING SYRIA, IT WOULD APPEAR TO MEAN SOME FORM OF COOPERATION. AND TO SAY THAT IT HAS NO CONNECTION I FIND A LITTLE SURPRISING.

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COULD WE GET A STATUS REPORT, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE -- U.S. GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE -- OF WHAT THE STATUS IS OF THE SYRIAN-JORDANIAN COOPERATION MILITARILY?

- A. I WILL LOOK INTO THAT.
- Q. BOB, CAN I FOLLOW UP ON THAT JUST FOR A SECOND? DID THE SAUDIS PRIVATELY SEND ANY EXPLANATION TO THE AMERICANS ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE TRAINING OR REASSURED THE AMERICANS THAT THIS CYCLE WAS, AS YOU'RE SUGGESTING, ROUTINE?
- A. LET ME JUST SAY THAT WE WERE IN TOUCH WITH THE SAUDIS ABOUT THE MANEUVERS TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS, AS I HAVE JUST OUTLINED THEM TO YOU.
- Q. AS OF WHEN WERE WE IN TOUCH WITH THEM?
- A. RECENTLY.
- Q. POST YOUR BRIEFING YESTERDAY?
- A. NO, NOT NECESSARILY. I THINK SOME OF THIS INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE. I DO NOT KNOW PRECISELY THE DATE OF THESE CONTACTS.
- Q. I KNOW. MY QUESTION WAS THE SAME. CAN WE FIND OUT IF THEY INFORMED US OF ANYTHING PRIOR TO THE MANEUVERS OR IF THEY ONLY INFORMED US ABOUT IT AFTER WE ASKED THEM?
- A. OK.
- Q. WELL, JUST TO CLARIFY -- THIS MAY SOUND LIKE A VERY SIMPLE QUESTION, BUT I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY. SINCE THE END-USE RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO SELF-DEFENSE NEEDS ONLY, A SIMILAR EXERCISE IN A WAR SITQATION WOULD BE ILLEGAL, IS THAT CORRECT, UNDER THE TERMS IN WHICH THESE WEAPONS ARE SOLD? IS THAT CORRECT OR NOT?
- A. I THINK, YOU KNOW, THE LAW IS VERY CLEAR; AND I HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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AN EXCERPT FROM IT: "THE ACT PROHIBITS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FROM SELLING ARTICLES OTHER THAN FOR INTERNAL SECURITY, FOR LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE, OR TO PERMIT THE RECIPIENT TO PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL OR COLLECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS OR MEASURES CONSISTENT WITH THE UN CHARTER." THAT'S FROM THE ACT.

NOW, THESE PROVISIONS SIMILAR TO THESE WERE CONTAINED IN THE U.S.-SAUDI MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT THAT WAS SIGNED A LONG TIME AGO -- I THINK IN 1951.

Q. BOB, HOW CAN YOU SAY -- OBVIOUSLY, IN ANY KIND OF A FIGHTING SITUATION, THE NATION INVOLVED WOULD CLAIM THAT THIS IS IN THEIR OWN LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE.

I WAS JUST TRYING TO UNDERSTAND FROM YOU WHETHER YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PROHIBITION WOULD PROHIBIT THIS KIND OF JOINT EXERCISE IN A WAR SITUATION.

A. WELL, LET ME SAY THAT AS FAR AS THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, THE PRESENT EXERCISE DID NOT VIOLATE THE TERMS UNDER WHICH SAUDIS OBTAINED THE AIRCRAFT.

Q.ALL RIGHT. NOW, IS THERE A REGIONAL OR COLLECTIVE ARRWNGEMENT BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND SYRIA THAT IS A KIND OF MUTUAL DEFENSE THING UNDER WHICH THE BRIGADE IS IN SYRIA?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS WITH SYRIA AS TO HOW OR WHAT THIS BRIGADE IS DOING IN SYRIA.

Q. WHEN YOU SAID '73 BEFORE, DO YOU HAVE THE MONTH WHEN THE BRIGADE WAS PUT UP THERE?

A. I THINK THEY WENT IN THERE AT THE TIME OF HOSTILITIES, DIDN'T THEY?

Q. I DON'T KNOW. I THINK THE MOROCCANS WENT UP.

A. I THINK THE SAUDIS WENT UP AT THE SAME TIME. UNCLASSIFIED

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Q. I THINK YOU DIDN'T CONCLUDE ONE SENTENCE. YOU SAID YOU WERE IN TOUCH WITH THE SAUDIS TO ESTABLISH THE FAVTS. WHICH FACTS?

A. THE FACTS AS I OUTLINED THEM IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATURE OF THESE MANEUVERS AND WHAT

## THEY WERE DOING THERE.

- Q. YOU MEAN THERE HAS BEEN NO INDEPENDENT CHECKING; YOU JUST TAKE THE SAUDI'S WORD AND THAT'S THE END OF IT?
- A. BASED ON OUR RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THEIR EXPLANATION.
- Q. DO YOU KNOW IF SYRIA IS GOING TO RECEIVE A SQUADRON OF RUSSIAN PLANES, MIG-25? THERE WAS A REPORT IN THE NEW YORK TIMES.
- A. I WAS ASKED THAT YESTERDAY. I HAVE SEEN THOSE REPORTS. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION ON THAT. HOWEVER, IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT SYRIA HAS RECEIVED A CONSIDERABLE QUANTITY OF SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE SOVIET UNION.
- Q. BEFORE WE LEAVE THE MIDDLE EAST, ARE YOU WILLING TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THESE VARIOUS EVENTS? I MEAN, DOES IT SUGGEST THAT SYRIA IS NOT IN A POSTURE TO NEGOTIATE A NEW DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL; OR IS IT JUST BEING BOYS AGAIN?
- A. I THINK WHAT IT IS, IS THAT THE SAUDI BRIGADE IN SYRIA WAS ENGAGED IN AN ANNUAL TRAINING CYCLE TO WHICH A SMALL NUMBER OF SAUDI AIRCRAFT PARTICIPATED. AND I DON'T THINK IT MEANS ANYTHING BEYOND THAT. I THINK THAT IS SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM THIS. IT'S A REPORT, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION ON IT.
- Q. THAT REPORT, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO THE NEW YORK TIMES, HAS BEEN ON THE AP WIRE FOR ABOUT 36 HOURS. CAN'T YOU GET ANYTHING ON IT TO SEE IF IT IS TRUE? MR. MURPHY IS HERE. IT SHOULD BE EASY. HE'S STILL HERE, IF UNCLASSIFIED

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HE'S AVAILABLE.

A. BARRY, I CHECKED ON IT YESTERDAY, I CHECKED AGAIN TODAY, AND I AM INFORMED BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS THAT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THAT REPORT.

- Q. WHEN IS AMBASSADOR MURPHY GOING BACK TO DAMASCUS?
- A. I DON'T KNOW.
- Q. DO YOU ADVISE THE ISRAELIS ABOUT WHAT YOU GET FROM THE SAUDIS?
- A. AND VICE VERSA?
- Q. NO, I DIDN'T ASK VICE VERSA. I'M TAKING THIS A BITE

AT A TIME.

A. I DON'T KNOW THAT WE HAVE HAD ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ABOUT THIS QUESTION. I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE RAISED IT WITH US.

Q. DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION, WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF THE RENEWAL OF THE UN MANDATE IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS BY SYRIA BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH? DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO YAY ABOUT THIS?

A. NO. WE CERTAINLY HOPE IT WILL BE RENEWED, BUT WE HAV EN'T RECEIVED ANY INDICATION THAT IT WILL BE.

Q. ARE THERE CHANCES OF A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND ASSAD?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY PLANS AT THE PRESENT TIME FOR SUCH A MEETING.

Q. I HAVE A GENERAL QUESTION ABOUT WHAT IS BEING DONE DIPLOMATICALLY TO GET NEW MEMENTUM IN THE MIDDLE EAST AT THE MOMENT? IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE WORKS?

A. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, AND I UNCLASSIFIED

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THINK THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL IS PROBABLY PART OF IT. HE OBVIOUSLY WILL BE DISCUSSING THE MIDDLE EAST WITT THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND GETTING HIS VIEWS. AND, AS YOU KNOW, THE SECRETARY GENERAL IS PREPARING TO MAKE A VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. WHEN IS THAT VISIT?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE DATE ON WHEN MR. WALDHEIM IS LEAVING.

Q. HAS HE FERED TO CONVEY OUR DIPLOMATIC DESIRES, OR IS HE GOING AS THE GECRETARY GENERAL?

A. HE IS GOING AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

Q. SO HE IS NOT REALLY GOING TO DO ANYTHING FOR US OUT THERE PARTICULARLY; HE IS NOT CARRYING ANY MESSAGES TO ASSAD FOR US?

A. NO, NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF.

Q. THAT'S NOT A WHOLE LOT OF MOMENTUM, BECAUSE HE GOES ON HIS OWN.

A. I KNOW, BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF UNDOF FOR EXAMPLE, I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD DENY THAT THE UN HAS PLAYED A VERY CRITICAL AND IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAINTAINING PEACE AND MEMENTUM OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. I'M NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT ON THE UN'S BEHAVIOR IN MAINTAINING THE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. CAN I GO BACK TO HENRY'S QUESTION? HE ASKED WHAT SPECIFICALLY WAS BEING DONE, AND SINCE YOU DIDN'T GIVE AN ANSWER OF ANYTHING SPECIFIC BEING DONE SHALL WE ASSUME NOTHING SPECIFIC IS BEING DONE?

A. NO, I WOULDN'T ASSUME THAT. I'M JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS SPECIFICALLY WHAT IS BEING DONE.

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- Q. WELL, IS SOMETHING HAPPENING THAT YOU CAN'T TELL US ABOUT?
- Q. YOU SAID DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WERE UNDER WAY, I THINK.
- A. OUT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS CONTINUE.
- Q. TOWARDS WHAT END, IS WHAT I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT. WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP? WHAT'S THE PLAN?
- A. I THINK IT GOES BACK TO THE SECRETARY'S NEWS CONFERENCE, FOR EXAMPLE. HE STATED SEVERAL OPTIONS OR ROADS THAT WERE OPEN TO CONTINUING THIS MOMENTUM, AND WE ARE PREPARED TO FOLLOW ANY OF THOSE, DEPENDING ON WHAT THE PARTIES WISH TO DO.
- Q. BUT THEN THE QUESTION IS, WE HAVE NOT YET DECIDED OR BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE WHICH WOULD BE THE MOST LIKELY?
- A. THAT IS CORRECT.
- Q. DO YOU HAVE A RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION TO MEET WITH ASSAD FROM THE SYRIANS? HAVE YOU HAD ANY RESPONSE AT ALL?
- A. I AM JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS EXCHANGES WE MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE HAD WITH THE SYRIANS.

KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, INFORMATION CONTROL

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 19 NOV 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE

Document Number: 1975STATE273625
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/P:MHVANORDER

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: n/a Film Number: D750402-0841

From: STATE

Image Path:

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751190/baaaadcf.tel Line Count: 485

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM

Office: ORIGIN NEA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 9

Previous Channel Indicators: Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0 Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 16 SEP 2003

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 Sep 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by izenbei0>

**Review Markings:** 

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:** 

Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Status. NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US, XF
To: ALGIERS
AMMAN CAIRO DAMASCUS GENEVA JIDDA

KUWAIT
DHAHRAN
JERUSALEM
KHARTOUM
MANAMA
TEHRAN
TEL AVIV
TRIPOLI
RABAT
LONDON
PARIS
MOSCOW
ROME
USUN N Y
NATO
SANA
TUNIS
BAGHDAD
DOHA
ABU DHABI
NOUAKCHOTT
MOGADISCIO
CINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006